

Thu Aug 13 08:41:36 EDT 2015
Yuhas.Darlene@epamail.epa.gov
FW: Colorado Toxic Spill
To: CMS.OEX@epamail.epa.gov; Gaines.Cynthia@epamail.epa.gov

From: [REDACTED] **Personal Email/Ex. 6**

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:42 AM

To: McCarthy, Gina

Subject: Re: Colorado Toxic Spill

Re: Colorado's Animas River Toxic Spill

I would like to know why the previous owner(s) of the abandoned Gold King Mine, where the above spill originated, were not required to dispose of, clean and decontaminate their mine waste when operations ceased? As you know 3 million gallons of toxic waste spilled into the Animas River, continues to this day to spill and leaked continuously into the river before this current spill.

Are there no legal requirements that mine operators clean and decontaminate their waste sites? Are they allowed to walk away without responsibility for major clean-up, and do mine owners not have to answer to legal or criminal charges? Are tax-payers to be responsible yet again for lax regulations and legal cunning?

Who will be responsible for returning the river and its surrounding areas to its rightful condition, and who will assure those living along the banks that their health and well-being is not in jeopardy? When will the environment and its continuing welfare be more important than wealthy individuals with financial influences?

These are not empty questions and I hope to hear from you regarding the above.

Sincerely,

On Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 10:20 PM, [REDACTED] **Personal Email/Ex. 6** [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I do not make comparison in any way between your leadership of the EPA and either of the Administrators during the G.W. Bush administration. However, I am so taken aback by the circumstances of the toxic spill on the Animas River that I would almost believe we have moved back in time.

It will be interesting to read news reports once the full extent of the spill and its consequences are known but I want to say that something as dire as this spill could only have occurred through negligence and incompetence.

I hope there are personnel consequences and whoever is responsible, whether an EPA employee or private contractor, is identified, held to account and if a private contractor, made to pay for the clean-up of the river, tributaries and recompense citizens affected by the spill. I also hope there are no quid-pro-quos should a private contractor be found responsible.

I look forward to some response from your office regarding the above.

Sincerely

[REDACTED] **Citizen Name/Ex. 6**

Albany CA